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Approved for Release 2002/08/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R011600230008-4

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Military Ceremonies in Cottbus and Wuenstorf on 23 February 1952 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 23 February 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 1 April 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. At 9 a.m. on 23 February 1952, three units were seen marching from the Hermann Loens Kaserne, Cottbus (N 52/A 57) to the officers' club and mess on Bismarckstrasse. The first unit consisted of: a military band; 1 colonel who was the commanding officer in the Hermann Loens Kaserne; 48 officers; 5 components, each of 3 officers, 8 NCOs and about 70 men; and 30 uniformed women. Most of the officers observed with this unit wore tank insignia. The second unit consisted of 1 colonel, 10 officers, 11 NCOs and about 70 men. All of the officers wore signal insignia. The third unit consisted of: 1 colonel; 24 officers; 3 NCOs; about 20 men; and 3 components, each consisting of 1 officer, 2 NCOs and about 20 men. Most of the officers of this unit wore artillery insignia. * The three units returned to the installation at about 11:30 a.m. During the intervening period, a total of about 700 officers and men from the Sachsendorf Kaserne arrived in the Hermann Loens Kaserne in small groups, with some of the troops riding on trucks. All of the troops left the installation again at 1 p.m. The troops from the Hermann Loens Kaserne left first, followed by the troops from the Sachsendorf Kaserne who were organized into a military band, 1 lieutenant colonel, 35 officers and 8 units, each of 3 officers, 8 NCOs and about 70 men. The units carried a total of 30 large wreaths that were subsequently deposited in the cemetery on Sprembergerstrasse. **
2. At 9:30 a.m. on 23 February, a band of platoon strength and about 1,600 officers, officer candidates, soldiers and uniformed women were seen assembling in an open square in the yard of the Hindenburg Kaserne, Wuenstorf (N 53/Z 91). The troops were subsequently addressed by a general and marched past him in review. The troops marched five abreast and were organized into the following units: about 850 officers in groups of 15 to 55; about 500 officer candidates marching in one block; about 160 soldiers marching in one block; and about 30 uniformed women. Following the review, all of the troops marched to the Sportschule. ***

* Comment. The 103 officers, 60 NCOs and 500 EM who were observed coming from the Hermann Loens Kaserne on 23 February 1952 possibly constitute the total number of troops stationed in this installation because a ration supply sergeant also stated that 500 troops were quartered in the installation in January 1952. The estimate by another source of as many as 1,200 troops there in January 1952 probably included a course of 400 officers who graduated prior to 23 February. The first unit mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present report was probably the Hq 9th Mecc Div; the second unit, a signal component of the division headquarters, thus indicating that not all of the elements of the 999th (?) Sig Bn are located in the

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Hermann Loens Kaserne; and the third unit, possibly the tank repair shop, an assumption which is somewhat contradicted by the observation of artillery insignia worn by the troops concerned. The present report contains no indications as to the whereabouts of elements of the 91st Tank Regt from Luebben which has been tentatively assumed in the Hermann Loens Kaserne. [redacted]

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** [redacted] Comment. The observation of 60 officers, 64 NCOs and 560 men from the Sachsenlorf Kaserne constitutes no basis for computing the actual number of troops there because elements of the 70th Recz Regt, that is carried in the installation, were already in Weisswasser at that time. [redacted]

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*** [redacted] Comment. According to previous information [redacted] the personnel attending the ceremony at the officer school of the GDR are believed to consist of about 700 senior officers attending one course, about 100 officers attending a special course, about 50 officers who are instructors, about 500 officer candidates attending one course and a school cadre of 160 men and women auxiliaries.

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